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Message Text

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73
ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 STR-04 EB-07 L-03 OIC-02 COME-00

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USOAS:PMONTAVON
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---------- 010132
R 301926Z APR 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USDEL MTN GENEVA
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD MTN OAS

SUBJECT: OAS SECRETARIAT VISIT TO MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATION

1. WORKING GROUP OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE FOR CONSULTATION AND NEGOTIATION (SCCN) AD HOC TRADE GROUP OF OAS ON APRIL 27 MANDATED OAS SECRETARIAT TO VISIT GENEVA TO CONSULT WITH LATIN AMERICAN AND U.S. MTN DELEGATIONS TO IDENTIFY POSSIBLE AREAS WHERE THE SECRETARIAT COULD LEND ASSISTANCE TO THE DELEGATIONS, PARTICULARLY RELATIVELY LESS DEVELOPED LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES. IN ADDITION, THE SECRETARIAT
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WAS AUTHORIZED TO CONSULT WITH INDIVIDUAL DELEGATIONS TO

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REVIEW SUBSTANTIVE AREAS OF THE MTN TO ASCERTAIN FEASIBI-
LITY OF SECRETARIAT ASSISTANCE ON A REGIONAL BASIS.
SECRETARIAT PERSONNEL WILL BE IN GENEVA JUNE 4 TO 11.

2. INITIAL CONTACT FOR SECRETARIAT WILL BE CHAIRMAN OF
LATIN AMERICA GROUP IN GENEVA. SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATIONS
WITH INDIVIDUAL DELEGATIONS (INCLUDING USDEL) WILL BE HELD
TO RECEIVE SUGGESTIONS ON POSSIBLE AREAS OF TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE. THEREAFTER SECRETARIAT WILL CONTACT GATT AND
UNCTAD SECRETARIATS TO ASCERTAIN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
PROVIDED BY THOSE ORGANIZATIONS. BASED ON INFORMATION
GATHERED DURING VISIT, OAS SECRETARIAT WILL PREPARE A REPORT

TO SCCN WORKING GROUP SO THAT LATTER MAY PREPARE DRAFT
PROGRAM ON IMPLEMENTING THOSE PORTIONS OF OAS GENERAL
ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 201 DEALING WITH MTN. DRAFT WILL BE
SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL BY SCCN AD HOC TRADE GROUP MEETING
JUNE 28-30, 1976.

3. DURING COURSE OF DISCUSSION ON MANDATE FOR SECRETARIAT
VISIT, MEXDEL (GARRIDO) MADE STRENUOUS EFFORT TO LIMIT
SCOPE OF SECRETARIAT VISIT TO TRADE PROBLEMS IN MTN THAT
AFFECT TRADE RELATIONS BETWEEN U.S. AND LATIN AMERICA.
USDEL ARGUED SUCCESSFULLY AGAINST SUCH LIMITATION BY
POINTING OUT THAT (A) WORKING GROUP SHOULD NOT PREJUDGE
ISSUE AND THUS ADVICE OF MTN DELEGATIONS SHOULD BE SOUGHT,
AND (B) TRADE PROBLEMS WERE MULTIFACETED AND EXAMINING ONLY
U.S.-L.A. ASPECT OF SUCH PROBLEMS MIGHT NOT BE PRODUCTIVE.
DELEGATIONS OF BRAZIL, ARGENTINA, PERU, COLOMBIA AND
TRINIDAD (ONLY OTHER MEMBERS OF WORKING GROUP) SUPPORTED
U.S. VIEW AND MEXICAN CONTENTION WILL BE REFERRED TO AD
HOC GROUP MEETING.

4. U.S.DEL ALSO STRESSED NEED FOR PRESERVATION OF CONFIDEN-
TIALITY OF MTN DOCUMENTS, NOTING THAT MTN CLASSIFIED
DOCUMENTS ARE AVAILABLE ONLY TO MTN PARTICIPANTS, AND GATT
AND UNCTAD SECRETARIATS. WHEN MEXDEL SUGGESTED THAT
SCRETARIAT MIGHT EVALUATE PRODUCT OFFERS FROM
REGIONAL STANDPOINT, USDEL VOICED STRONG OBJECTIONS NOTING
THAT SUCH A BREACH OF CONFIDENTIALITY COULD UNDERMINE
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DOMESTIC SUPPORT FOR U.S. NEGOTIATORS AND THUS
SERIOUSLY INTERFERE WITH MTN PROGRESS. BRAZIL AND
ARGENTINA DELS VIGOROUSLY SUPPORTED U.S. OBJECTION.

5. DEPARTMENT BELIEVES MEXICAN MTN DEL WILL PRESS SECRETA-
RIAT PERSONNEL, DIRECTLY AND THROUGH OTHER MTN DELS, TO
INCLUDE EVALUATION OF U.S. OFFERS AND PROPOSALS IN ALL MTN
GROUPS VIS-A-VIS LATIN AMERICAN REGION AS PART OF POSSIBLE

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SECRETARIAT ASSISTANCE. SUCH ASSISTANCE IF UNDERTAKEN, WOULD SERIOUSLY JEOPARDIZE CONFIDENTIALITY OF U.S. OFFERS. WE BELIEVE THAT THIS EFFORT COULD BE BLUNTED IF MTN DEL UNDERTOOK STRONG LOBBYING EFFORT WITH APPROPRIATE LATIN AMERICAN DELS TO POINT OUT PITFALLS IN SUCH A SCHEME AND URGE THEM TO OPPOSE SUCH A LINE OF ACTION. IN ADDITION, MTN DEL MAY WISH TO REITERATE USG CONCERNS THAT OAS ACTION NOT INTERFERE WITH MTN NEGOTIATING PROCESS NOR DUPLICATE GATT OR UNCTAD EFFORTS. SECRETARIAT REPORT OF VISIT TO GENEVA WILL BE BASIS FOR DISCUSSION AIMED AT FORMULATING OAS PROGRAM OF ACTION. MTN DEL EFFORTS TO STEER SECRETARIAT REPORT ALONG CONSTRUCTIVE LINES SHOULD SERVE TO DEFUSE POTENTIAL IRRITANT WITH LATIN AMERICA IN OAS.

6. WE BELIEVE IDENTIFICATION OF PROBLEM AREAS OF INTEREST TO L.A. REGION COULD BE USEFUL IN STIMULATING GREATER LATIN AMERICAN INTEREST AND PARTICIPATION IN MTN. ON BASIS OF YOUR CONTINUING CONSULTATIONS WITH LA MTN DELS, WE BELIEVE YOU ARE IN BEST POSITION TO JUDGE WHAT AREAS MIGHT BE APPROPRIATE IN THIS REGARD. IN ADDITION TO GIVING YOUR VIEWS TO OAS MISSION, PLEASE LET US KNOW WHAT ARE IMPORTANT PROBLEM AREAS.

7. TEXT OF WORKING GROUP REPORT BEING TRANSMITTED TO MTN DEL KNEPPER. SISCO

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